General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 11

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.38 and Add.1)*]

71/160. Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003 and 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008, 65/4 of 18 October 2010, 67/17 of 28 November 2012 and 69/6 of 31 October 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution 70/4 of 26 October 2015 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all of its previous resolutions on this matter,

Recognizing the contribution of sport to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as declared in its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 65/1 of 22 September 2010,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] inter alia, sport is recognized as an important enabler for sustainable development,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes as well as the role of Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

Acknowledging also the importance of sport and physical activity in combating non-communicable diseases, as reflected in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[2]

Acknowledging further the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, including the declarations that it has adopted, as well as the convening of the sixth International Conference, to be held in Kazan, Russian Federation, in June 2017, as a forum where commitments and recommendations are formulated to strengthen the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging the revised International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session in November 2015,

Taking note of the proclamation by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at its thirty-eighth session, of 20 September as the International Day of University Sport,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter, and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, including those held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016, which, inter alia, inspired youth by the potential presented by sport for social inclusion, as well as the Youth Olympic Games, held in Lillehammer, Norway, in February 2016, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2018, in Tokyo in 2020, and in Beijing in 2022, as well as the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires in 2018 and Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2020, and calling upon future hosts of such Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Recognizing the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

[2] Resolution 66/2, annex.

Recognizing also the importance of international, continental and regional sport events, such as the Special Olympics World Games, the Deaflympics, the European Games, the Pan American Games and the Parapan American Games, the All Africa Games, the Asian Games, the Pacific Games, the World Nomad Games and the Commonwealth Games, for promoting education, health, development and peace,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[4] stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[5] in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and recognizing that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in sport contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport[6] in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", and encouraging Member States to implement and further develop those recommendations,

Recalling the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the opportunities that it provides within its mandate for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively higher participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Recalling also the political declaration[7] and outcome[8] adopted at the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[9] and the commitments made therein to ensure equal opportunity for women and girls in recreational and

---

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2419, No. 43649.

[7] Resolution S-23/2, annex.

[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

sports activities, as well as in participation in athletics and physical activities at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, training, competition, remuneration and prizes,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected,

1. *Reaffirms* that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizes the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives;

2. *Encourages* Member States to effectively use all the opportunities offered by sport and by its values in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sport for development and peace: towards sport's enabling of sustainable development and peace",[10] which reviewed the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and other partners using sport as a tool for development and peace;

4. *Invites* Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster development and peace and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sport-based initiatives and to promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda by working along the following principles adapted from the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, contained in the report of the Secretary-General:[11]

(*a*) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and raise greater awareness in order to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(*b*) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies, including mechanisms for growth and wealth;

---

[10] A/71/179.

[11] Ibid., sect. VII.

(*c*) Resource mobilization, programming and implementation: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector, to create and implement effective programmes with sustainable impact;

(*d*) Evidence of impact and follow-up: promote and facilitate monitoring and evaluation tools, including indicators, data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

5. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes, on the basis of standards, indicators and benchmarks, as well as to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of such strategies, policies and programmes;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to leverage sport and physical education policies and programmes to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

8. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport-based programmes;

9. *Encourages* the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 4 above to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster sustainable development, strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, including persons with disabilities, promote health, prevent disease, including non-communicable diseases, and drug abuse, realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, foster inclusion and well-being, ensure the participation of everyone without discrimination of any kind, promote tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

10. *Encourages* the stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of mega sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

11. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to

promote physical and mental health and well-being and cultivate a sport culture in society;

12. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to designate a focal point for sport for development and peace within their Governments and to provide updates to the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace on institutional, policy and programme-related developments;

13. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement;

14. *Encourages* relevant entities involved in delivering mega sport events to respect applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[12] and noting other ongoing initiatives in this regard, at every stage of the event life cycle, to safeguard the many societal benefits that hosting such events can contribute;

15. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[13] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[5] and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;[6]

16. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

17. *Appreciates* the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, supported by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, on issues relating to sport for development and peace within the United Nations system and beyond, through innovative initiatives such as the Youth Leadership Programme;

18. *Notes* the inclusion of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace as a major organizational unit of the Secretariat, as stipulated in the Secretary-General's bulletin on the organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations;[14]

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to maintain the mandate of Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace and to provide guidance on the institutional future of sport for development and peace within the United Nations system;

20. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of mega sport events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports sector, to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United

[12] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[14] ST/SGB/2015/3.

Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, which is funded exclusively through voluntary contributions, in order to sustain the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, ensure the continuous activities of the Office, including its support to policy and programme developments in the field of sport for development and peace, and provide project implementation funding for the Office and the United Nations system at large;

21. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which met for its fourth plenary session on 1 July 2014, and its thematic working groups on sport and persons with disabilities, sport and peace, sport and gender, sport and health and sport and child and youth development, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as observers, to join and support the International Working Group;

22. *Encourages* the United Nations system and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group to further strengthen their cooperation in this regard;

23. *Encourages* Member States to join and participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on specific initiatives aimed at ensuring more effective implementation of the Olympic Truce and progress made by Member States and the United Nations system, including activities and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, as well as other relevant stakeholders, towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, to provide a review of the contribution of sport to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to present an updated action plan on sport for development and peace;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Sport for development and peace".

64th plenary meeting
16 December 2016